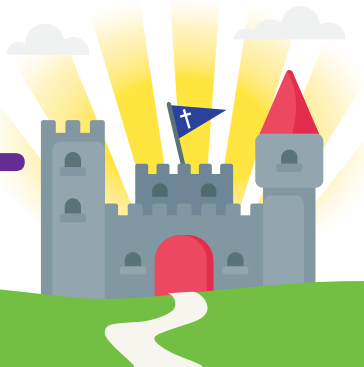


Land of

LIGHT

CHRISTIAN ART LESSONS



3 lesson  
variations  
for all ages

**Holiday  
Lesson**



El Flora De Nochebuena

The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia



## ★ ★ ★ Pepita and the Poinsettia ★ ★ ★

A folklore story is a story that is retold orally and passed down from generation to generation. There is a Mexican folklore story that is a much loved story and is all about the Poinsettia and a little girl named Pepita. We can't think the story is literally true but its meaning is beautiful in that it is about a young Mexican girl who thought she had nothing to give yet her gift became beautiful to all who saw it because of her heart in giving it.

The legend goes something like this.

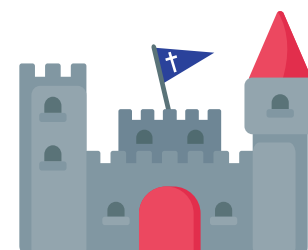
There was a young girl named Pepita who lived in Mexico. Pepita did not come from a wealthy prestigious family. She was just a peasant girl but she loved God very much. She lived close to a village and one Christmas she traveled to the village to see a nativity scene that was set up at the chapel in the church. The story goes on to say that the little girl named Pepita did not have any money to buy a gift to present to baby Jesus at the church service which was a custom at the time. She saw some weeds at the side of the road as she was walking to the church so she gathered those up to make a bouquet to give to baby Jesus.

She was upset that that was all she had to give but her cousin reminded her that "even the most humble gift, given in love would be

beautiful to God." As she went to the nativity she laid down her bouquet and miraculously the bouquet turned into the beautiful red Christmas Poinsettias that we all love at Christmas.

While we know this is just a story, we can learn from the message of giving with a heart of love and also know that even though we might not be able to buy or receive expensive presents that the gifts we give in love to others are precious to our Lord Jesus who is no longer a baby in a manger but the King of the universe and our Savior.

The featured book "The Legend of the Poinsettia" retold by Tomie dePaola retells this legend and has beautiful illustrations.





# The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

A collage three ways of a poinsettia for all ages.

## Objectives

- ★ To create a collage of a poinsettia, learn more about the heart of giving at Christmas as we hear about a folk legend oral story.

## Supplies

Poinsettia with gold background

- ★ Watercolor paper
- ★ Sponge
- ★ Sequins
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Watercolor, tempera paint and oil pastels
- ★ Gold paint pen

Poinsettia with Blue dry brush background

- ★ Watercolor paper
- ★ Watercolor paint
- ★ Gold paint pen
- ★ Prussian blue acrylic

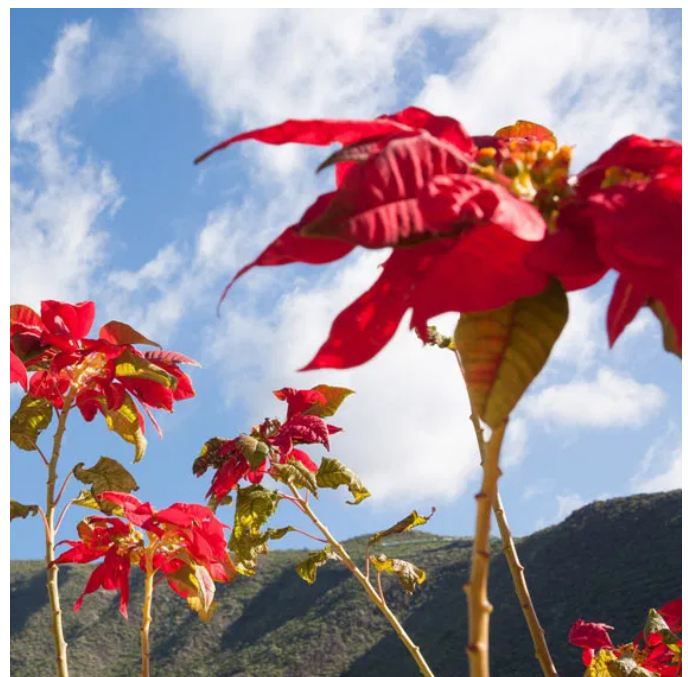
Poinsettia with oil pastel background patterns

- ★ Watercolor paper
- ★ Oil pastels
- ★ Watercolor paint
- ★ Sequins

## About Poinsettias

Poinsettias grow naturally in Mexico. The plant is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett. Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first United States ambassador from Mexico. He was a physician and a botanist. He introduced the Poinsettia to the United States in 1828 after he discovered it in the wilderness of Southern Mexico. The Poinsettia is a perennial. It thrives in the warm tropical climate of Mexico and blooms in December. It is used to decorate many churches throughout Mexico at Christmas. In the 1500s, Franciscan friars began to use the plant saying the plant represents the star of Bethlehem and the color represents the sacrifice Christ made for us.

As native plants in Mexico, they are bushes and can grow 10 to 15 feet tall.



# To Create Your The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

## Gold Background with sponge painting and dry brush background.



**1** Use gold metallic paint and dry brush this on a piece of watercolor paper. To get this effect, DO NOT ADD ANY WATER TO THE BRUSH and make sure the brush is dry to start with. Use a piece of 11 by 14 paper. You can keep this nice for years if you spray seal it with Kamar varnish. You can mount it to a foam core board that is also 11 by 14 then frame it if you would like to. Then you could display it every Christmas.



**2** Use watercolor paper for both the red leaves and the green leaves. For the red use red, a little yellow and a little blue tempera paint but keep the blue away from the yellow. It's really fun to use the sponge on the entire piece of paper. If you are making these with your kids this is fun for them also!

For the green use a little blue and a little yellow along with the green. The sponge makes a nice texture and texture is an element of art. Green and red are complementary colors which mean they are across the color wheel from one another. When you put them together they look really beautiful and the art m[name for this is simultaneous contrast!



# To Create Your The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

3

To make the leaves, use the back side so that you can draw all the big petals. Make as many petals as you can all over the back of the paper. Do this on both the red and the green then cut all the petals out.



4

Attach the leaves one at a time to the gold paper and as you get ready to attach them curl them slightly and carefully to create the leaf effect. I decided to add the words in a collage style and just used white scraps and a gold paint pen. I liked the way the red sequins contrasted with the colors of the poinsettia.





# To Create Your The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

## Poinsettia with the Blue Background

Follow the same procedure as the gold but use Prussian blue acrylic paint with a dry brush on a 11 by 14 piece of watercolor paper.

- 1 Use all the different reds in the watercolor set, especially the magenta and the fire engine red and use a little orange also.

Draw the leaves first or paint the entire piece then draw the leaves on the back.



- 2 Do the same with the green leaves, using some blue green and some yellow along with the green in the set. After the leaves are COMPLETELY dry make veins in all of them with a gold paint pen.





# To Create Your The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

3

Cut all the leaves out and began to glue them. Before you glue them, curl them a little to make the pretty 3D leaf effect. I used a lot of glue and I just used Elmer's. Contrast is a principle of design that is light next to dark or smooth next to rough etc. See how beautiful the contrast is in this work of art!



5

If you decide you want to spray and seal this, use Kramar Varnish. You could mount it to a foam-core board then frame it with no glass or you could mount it on a natural colored pre-made board for Hobby Lobby.



4

After you get it all put together and are happy add the sequins.





# To Create Your The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

## Poinsettia with Oil Pastel Background Patterns

**1** This version is really fun and best for pr-k on up to about 3d grade. Use the 11 by 14 watercolor paper and create a pattern with the oil pastels. I like this pattern but there are millions of ways to show pattern for the background. Snowflakes could be pretty as well!



**2** After you are finished with the pattern use watercolor to paint a wash right over all the oil pastels. Add enough water to the paint and the brush to keep the watercolor transparent then blot it with a paper towel to get the excess off.

**3** Use water and the red colors in the palette along with a little purple. If you are doing this with pre k and k I would have just the correct colors out for them to use. They could also do the sponge print version if that seems more fun. Just cover the entire piece of paper with either choice.





# To Create Your The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

4



Do the same with the green using greens blue green and some yellow green. (Either the sponge or the watercolor version)

5



For pre k and k if you have the leafs pre cut out of thin cardboard they can have fun tracing all around them. The challenge will be getting them to use all the paper and most will say they only have room for one or two leaves! So help them get as many leaves off their painted sheet as possible.

6

Cut them out which the pre-k and k will need some help with then glue them down. Lastly add the sequins





# The Flower of the Holy Night Poinsettia

I truly hope you enjoyed creating this Holiday Land Of Light Lesson! Please like and follow my [Land of Light Facebook page](#) and join my [Land of Light Facebook group](#). You can find lots of really fun and rewarding art lessons for kids and adults that teach about the love of Jesus as well as art skills on my [Land of Light Christian Art Lessons](#) website! I offer a monthly subscription for an incredible value plus individual lessons.

Love and blessings,

*Ann Land*

